

The Gourmet Restaurant

旋興酒家

Over 40 items
in our Buffet including
hot & cold choices

Lunch Buffet \$9, Dinner \$12.50
Fully Licensed - Open 7 days

485 MAIN STREET, PORT COLBORNE 905-834-6683

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

On a mission

Dogs being trained to help soldiers
struggling with PTSD.
Page A3

Reunited

Woman finds cat missing since 2011
while looking for friend's dog.
Page A6

SOLD

FRANK RUZYCKI
THE #1 HOME SELLER
Port Colborne/Wainfleet-15 Years in a Row!
Call: 905-834-7653

RE/MAX #1 PORT COLBORNE OFFICE
140 Commerce St. Port Colborne
905-834-7777
PortColborneHomes.com
WainfleetHomes.com

INPORTNEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

Showboat ready to set sail



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Port Colborne's Showboat festival announced its 2015 season with a mix of murder, marriage and of reliable Norm Foster. The four-show season begins June 17. Please see Page 2 for story.

Hometown Real Estate Team

Michael Smith

Sales Representative



TOP 10
RLP AGENT
2012-2013



2009-2014



Ph: 905.834.9000
DIRECT: 905.850.3741



68 Erie St., PC

Charming 3 bed 2 bath character home in central
PC location with several updates.

\$152,500



**SOLD FIRM
IN 1 WEEK!**

125 Highland Ave., PC

Pristine 2 bed bungalow fully updated with detached
1 1/2 car garage on quiet PC side street!

\$174,900



88 Elizabeth St., PC

2+1 raised bungalow with many updates,
great central location.

\$162,900

Charlie Smith
Sales Representative



ROYAL LEPAGE

Located Assistant to
Michael Smith

UPFRONT

THEATRE

Showboat Festival returns for 2015

JOHN LAW
QMI Agency Niagara

Showboat Festival will set sail on its 29th season in June with a mix of murder, marriage and ol' reliable Norm Foster.

The four-show season begins June 17 at the Roselawn Centre with Gerald Moon's *Corpse!* a whodunnit director Derek Ritschel calls more of a "who's going to do it." The morbid comedy of family dynamics gone wrong figures to be the hidden gem of the season, much like last year's surprise hit *Trying*.

"There's some (things) in this show the audience is going to be surprised to see happen on their stage," says Ritschel, also the company's artistic director. "It's going to be exciting."

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Showboat Festival 2015 Season

WHEN: June 17 to Aug. 23

WHERE: Roselawn Centre, 296 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne

TICKETS: \$29 to \$32 per show, \$105 for subscription. Phone 905-834-0833, or visit www.showboattheatre.ca

Starring Johnathan Ellul, Melanie Janzen and Bruce Davies, it's the most successful work by obscure British actor Gerald Moon, who appeared in *Thicker Than Water* and *The Edwardians*. It runs until June 21.

The season continues with Mark Crawford's pre-nuptial comedy *Stag and Doe* July 8 to 12, directed by Liza Balkin.

August brings this year's Norm Foster comedy/musical *One Moment* (Aug. 5 to 9), about six call centre employees who experience a life-changing moment one day. It's directed by Liz Gilroy and stars Johnathan Ellul in his second show of the season.

The season finale will be Bernard Slade's audacious comedy *Same Time, Next Year*



Port Colborne's Showboat festival has announced its 2015 season.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

(Aug. 19 to 23), about two married people who agree to meet at a cottage once a

year. It was made into a 1978 movie with Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn. Stewart Arnott

directs.

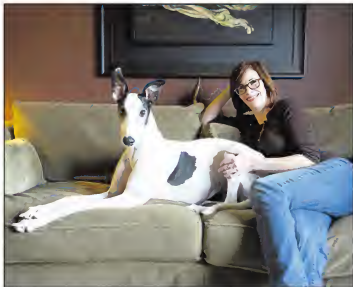
"We're going with what the energy was, and reaction was,

to last season," says Ritschel. "We find the audience in Port Colborne is open to that artis-

tic bent on a show."

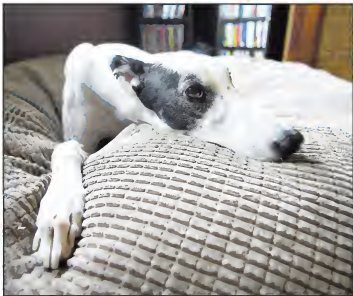
john.law@surmedia.ca

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTOS BY JULIE JOSCAR/QUB AGENCY NAGARA

Sandra Gale with her adopted greyhound Louis in her St. Catharines homes.



Sandra Gale's adopted greyhound Louis at her St. Catharines.

Racetracks to dog snacks

Retired greyhounds get a happy second life with adoptive families

BROCK WILSON

Specialist QMI Agency Niagara

Louis is living the dream as he walks down the streets in St. Catharines.

His big hazel eyes fixate on the sights all around him. His ears are alert to the sounds.

He is quick to greet passersby with a friendly hello and a sniff. People seem to enjoy it as much as he enjoys them.

But life wasn't always so relaxed for this greyhound.

Before his retirement, Louis had a job where he spent much of his day at a racetrack where his race name was Arat.

About a year ago, Sandra Gale found the now three-year-old dog while visiting the Greyhound Relocation and Adoption Agency, also known as GRA.

"I can watch all his archived races on video," Gale said with

a smile.

"The first time he heard me watching one of his races, he heard the announcer and he just booted down the hall ... you could just hear nails on the hardwood."

Louis is one of thousands of retired racing greyhounds that have found homes through the adoption agency. The GRA was founded in the mid-1990s when former owner Billy Cowan discovered his love of greyhounds.

Nearly 30 years later — and upwards of 3,000 greyhounds relocated — the GRA continues to work out of a three-acre farm near London, Ont.

The facility holds from 20 to 50 dogs at a time, said Heather Maine, who took over from Cowan after he retired in February last year.

Maine started working with the agency back in 2007 after adopting her first greyhound. Now she has six of them.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.gracanada.com or phone 519-423-9691

She said the fact GRA has large kennels sets it apart from other adoption agencies.

It was just over a year ago when Gale found herself at the kennels, undecided over which retired racing hound she was going to bring home to her apartment in St. Catharines.

"There was another one that I had a real crush on, I almost came home with a real beauty," said Gale.

"He [Louis] was the first one I saw ... I kept down, and he came as close as he could ... and I spent a lot of time with him. My other pick, named Kentucky Gambler, he was huge ... a real smile, and very playful."

She nearly left with Kentucky Gambler, but decided to give Louis one more chance.

"We brought him out and he was very affectionate and very sweet," she said. "It was really cold (outside) and I think if I had opened my jacket he would have jumped right in."

So Louis won Gale over. "We have lots of wonderful volunteers ... the dogs are loved and cared for every day," said Maine.

She said adoption groups like the GRA make dogs such as Louis feel at home while they excitedly await a new family to take them in.

The agency relies on volunteers and donations to buy things like dog food and soap to keep the animals healthy.

"We interview people, and they can come in and have a look at the dogs," said Maine. "They can take out as many dogs as they like until they

GREYHOUND FACTS

■ Greyhounds are docile and tolerant and make the best pets for quiet, gentle children who do not wish to engage in boisterous play.

■ The greyhound is a low-maintenance dog. Their skin produces little oil so only a few baths a year are needed

■ Greyhounds must live indoors and can never be kept in a doghouse or garage.

■ To most people's surprise, greyhounds are not in continuous motion ... Expect your greyhound to dash down your hallway a few times a

day to burn off energy and then spend the rest of the day storing up energy (usually on your couch!) for the next burst.

■ Greyhounds love to run and chase things ... Because of this, greyhounds can never be trusted off the leash.

Greyhounds also must never be tied up. They can reach speeds of up to 65 km/h in their third stride and could easily break their neck if they decide to bolt or run.

Source: National Greyhound Adoption Program ngap.org

find the perfect fit for their family."

Gale is thinking of adopting Louis's brother when he retires from racing, but for the time being she's content with one greyhound.

"They are such wonderful dogs," said Maine. "They are so clean and quiet, and a great companion. They are very low energy and make great apartment dogs."

Vaccination skeptics need an info injection

Health Minister Rona Ambrose said it best: "Vaccinations are frankly miracles of modern medicine."

That said, it's time the worst of the vaccination skeptics got off the Internet, stopped reading junk science and schooled up. Either that, or keep themselves and their children — whose health they jeopardize with their arrogance — away from the rest of us if they're showing signs of contagious or even deadly diseases, like measles, that North America conquered through vaccinations.

Robust public health and disease

prevention depends as much on the bedrock science on which it rests, as on public education that maintains those breakthroughs for future generations.

Smoking, HIV/AIDS, childhood diseases, the flu. In each, science gave us the silver bullet to understand the issues, and public health education the muscle to extend those lessons into time.

With that in mind, there have been few teachable moments on the merits of inoculations better than the debate now raging in North America, triggered by minor measles outbreaks on both sides of the border.

The most telling illustration sprang,

ironically, from the Disneyland theme park in southern California, which bills itself as "the happiest place on Earth." Dozens of lab-confirmed cases of measles have been traced to the resort, a global tourism destination. If there's an unvaccinated child or adult with a contagious disease at Disney, it's an uncomfortably small world, after all.

No one likes getting shots. They don't always work, and there can be adverse reactions.

Some people simply overlook them. That's forgetfulness, easily fixed.

Others oppose them for religious reasons. That's tougher.

But also out there are skeptics who insist they know better than the scientists. Some cling to discredited research linking shots and autism; others, to conspiracy theories about Big Pharma. There's no telling them they're wrong, but we can say why they're not right.

Information compiled by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts the issue in stark perspective: About one or two children out of every 1,000 infected with measles will die. But the measles vaccine is more than 90% effective.

Enough said.

— Sun Media

Shipwrecks — Atomena

SKIP GILLHAM

For QMI Agency Niagara

The former Swedish freighter *Atomena*, a Great Lakes trader in 1967, barely made it to port on its last trip.

The ship was under the name of *Divonne* and on a voyage from Algeria to Ghent, Belgium, when it began to leak while on the Atlantic. The captain wisely decided to head for Gijón, Spain, on the Bay of Biscay, as it was the handiest nearby port. They made it safely on Oct. 6, 1961, but it would be the last trip.

After being declared a total loss, the vessel was sold to Spanish shipbreakers and taken to San Esteban de Pravia in August 1962 to be broken up.

The 172.65-metre-long bulk carrier had also been a seaway caller as *Gattopardo* in 1970 and as *Aurora* in 1978. After acquiring its fourth name of *Divonne* in 1981, service was confined to saltwater routes until it began leaking after only 20 years of trading.



Atomena is pictured at Iroquois Lock on May 11, 1968.



GENERAL NOTICE: The contents of this newspaper are protected by copyright and may be used only for personal, non-commercial purposes. All other rights are reserved and commercial use is prohibited. To make any use of this material you must first obtain the permission of the owner of the copyright.

For further information, contact Greg Fumming.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Copyright in letters and other material submitted to the publisher and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the publisher and its licensees may freely reproduce them in print, electronic or other form.

■ **ECONOMICS:** Tourist, shopping industries look to benefit from low Canadian dollar

Taking advantage of a diving loonie

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

As the value of the Canadian dollar continues to drop, the smiles on the faces of officials in Niagara's tourism and shopping industries continues to grow wider.

"It's a great time for us to encourage our tourism industry and our cross-border partnerships," said Jeremy Meyers, a policy analyst with the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

"A low dollar just means more revenue coming our way from the States. It means more of our residents staying in Niagara and spending their money here, and more U.S. residents coming to Canada."

On Thursday, the Canadian dollar was worth US80 cents, around the lowest level in almost six years.

Dolores Fabiano, executive director for the Niagara Falls,

Welland-Pelham and Port Colborne-Wainfleet chamber of commerce, said the low Canadian dollar provides an opportunity for Niagara to "really get Americans to come back to our area."

"We've got so many great additions since the last time many of them were here, including great shopping," said Pelham.

"The one thing we lack is the aggressive marketing campaign the Americans are so good at, so we have to take advantage of the opportunity here."

She said it's also good for U.S. investment in Niagara.

"It benefits exporters the most right now. It's not great for all areas, but for exporters, it's a great time to invest."

The current situation brings the Greater Niagara chamber's 1 Less Trip Initiative — launched in 2013 to inform Niagara residents about the benefits one less trip across the bor-

der could have on the region's economy — more into focus.

According to the campaign, Erie County across the Niagara River saw its sales tax revenues hit a record high in 2013, with \$401-million collected. Officials there pointed to Canadian cross-border shoppers as a major source of tax revenue.

Among the campaign's other points when it launched were that for every \$100 spent locally, \$70 goes back into the community. With the annual average of \$72 spent per person on four same-day cross-border trips, making one less trip would mean a \$126 million investment in Niagara's economy. That includes money redirected to wages, local taxes and buying materials and supplies.

"We have some pretty clear evidence that as the Canadian dollar rises and falls, so does the incidence of cross-border shopping," said Rick Woodward, marketing director with

the Pen Centre shopping complex in St. Catharines.

Woodward said the mall conducts a survey of about 2,000 customers each year asking them if they shop across the border. He said the percentage who respond yes tends to correspond with a higher Canadian dollar.

"There's no doubt an 80-cent dollar will impact people's decision to cross-border shop and there's a direct correlation between the amount of money generated in a community and how it relates to jobs and employment in that community."

Woodward said he understands Niagara residents crossing the border to shop, dine and be entertained is part of the region's "culture."

"We just want them to appreciate the economies of scale behind this, and to consider going one less time. We're not saying don't go."

Woodward said he hasn't yet seen an upswing in customers at the Pen Centre as the Canadian dollar declines.

"It's a slow pendulum swing to see actual ramifications of a

fluctuating dollar, but if you follow the trend (of the survey), I suspect when we do it again this spring, we will see a certain drop (in the percentage of cross-border shoppers)."

Niagara Falls Tourism Chairman Wayne Thomson said a low Canadian dollar "opens up all kinds of doors for us."

He said at one time, 65% of visitors to Niagara Falls came from the United States. But after the 9/11 terror attacks and the implementation of passport requirements, U.S. visits plummeted, which Thomson said at one point was below 20%.

He said Niagara has always had to deal with cross-border shopping issues, especially Canadians flocking to the outlet mall in Niagara Falls, N.Y., to find unique and less-expensive items.

But as the Canadian dollar plummets, so too does the number of Ontario licence plates in U.S. shopping centre parking lots, said Thomson.

"I see it myself. I frequent a restaurant over there for the last 50 years, and I monitor the situation and the outlet mall over there, the parking is reduced by

probably 50%," said Thomson.

"I wouldn't say we're now on a level playing field, but people are realizing that with 20% on the dollar, maybe it's worth going to the outlet mall on this side."

He said U.S. bound traffic on the NEXUS-only Whitport Bridge and the Rainbow Bridge has been cut "substantially."

As for U.S. visitation to Niagara Falls, Ont., Thomson said while "we're nowhere near the glory days of 65%," Americans now represent "probably" 30% or more of the millions of tourists who come to the Honey-moon Capital each year.

"I can tell personally because I come into the tourist area every day and I look at the licence plates and I see plates from states I had never seen before — California, Florida, Indiana."

In addition to a low Canadian dollar, Thomson credits its national and international type events that Niagara Falls has hosted, such as the popular New Year's Eve show and the Nik Walsden walkway, for helping the city stay top of mind for U.S. residents.



The Orchards

RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

Independent and Enhanced Care Living

**Our Award Winning Retirement Home is Expanding!
Enhanced Care & Independent Living Options Available**

Secured Units & Memory Care Coming Summer 2015!

24 Hour Professional Nursing & PSW Care

Daily Social Activities & Entertainment

Onsite Physiotherapy & Exercise Programs

Pharmacy Services

In-Suite Emergency Response Systems

To book a tour and complimentary meal or for more information, please contact us today!

3421 Frederick Avenue, Vineland

(905) 562-7357

www.theorchardsresidence.ca

MURDOCH'S

Celebrating 55 Years as Tire & Mechanical Experts

SAVE \$40 ON A SET OF 4

IRONMAN
TIRES

iMOVE
Performance
UTQG:
W-Rated 340 A A
V-H Rated 420 A A



RIDE ON OUR STRENGTH

P175/70R13 Regular '64	Save ON 4	\$216
P185/70R14 Regular '69		\$236
P195/65R15 Regular '77		\$276
P215/70R15 Regular '91		\$316
P205/55R16 Regular '99		\$356

Free Installation & Balancing

**SAVE MONEY WITH IMPROVED GAS MILEAGE AND TREAD WEAR
4 TIRE PURCHASE - NITROGEN FILLING SPECIAL \$29.95**

Alignment With a 4 tire purchase Most vehicles	Safety Checks Most Vehicles	Lifetime Warranty Brakes	Lube, Oil, Filter From Parts & Labour
\$50.00	\$59.00	15% OFF	\$29.95

Sale Expires: March 31st, 2015



Murdoch's ONE STOP TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE
• PROFESSIONALS FOR 55 YEARS •

285 Killaly Street W., Port Colborne 835-8832 www.murdochstire.com

■ **TAIL OF TWO CITIES:** Reunited with owner after four years apart

The cat really did come back

KARENA WALTER
QMI Agency Niagara

Sounds im-paw-sible, but this story's far real.

Four years after losing her cat in Fenwick, a St. Catharines woman

accidentally found her pet up for adoption in her own city.

Rebecca Rennie was reunited this week with Rosie — last seen in June 2011 — after spotting a photo on the internet.

The unexpected reunion was a stroke of luck.

"I probably wouldn't be looking at animals if my friend hadn't lost her dog," said Rennie, who re-adopted 16-year-old Rosie at Lin-

coln County Humane Society.

Rennie had been caring for Rosie for about six months in 2011 when she took the cat to her parents' rural house in Fenwick, about 20 kilometres from St. Catharines. While out on the deck that evening, Rosie went missing.

The cat was never found, and Rennie suspected she had been attacked by a raccoon.

Fast-forward to Sunday, and Rennie was searching various websites to help a friend find a missing dog.

While checking out the site for Lincoln County Humane Society, Rennie started browsing the cat adoption section for fun and saw one photo that looked awfully familiar.

The eyes seemed a little different, but the cat looked like it had Rosie's fur and sleeping posture.

"It's hard to explain. I knew it was her," Rennie said.

She said Rosie was a very affectionate cat, but her most distinctive feature was her sound — her voice box doesn't work.

A call to the humane society revealed the cat at the shelter couldn't meow.

Because of a recent snowstorm, Rennie had to wait until the next day to go to the Fourth Ave. shelter to see for herself.

"When I walked in and saw her lying there, I recognized her," she said.

Problem was, Rosie had an "adopted"

sign. But in another twist of fate, the person who planned to adopt Rosie had backed out.

A reunion four years in the making is a first for Lincoln County Humane Society executive director Kevin Strooband.

The longest he's seen a cat go missing before being reunited with its owner was two years. That cat was found a block away from the person's home, and was likely taken in by a neighbour. The second-longest reunion was a year, involving a cat with a microchip.

"This, you just don't hear about it," Strooband said.

So where has Rosie been for four years?

Strooband said someone was feeding her and guessed she could have been living as a farm cat. The humane society picked her up as a stray in west St. Catharines on Dec. 3.

"I don't know how it ended up in St. Catharines," Rennie said.

"I'm just really happy she wasn't eaten by a raccoon."

And the missing dog Rennie was searching for online in the first place?

It's another happy tail. The dog was found at the shelter in Niagara Falls and reunited with its owner, too.

karena.walter@surmedia.ca

PORTAL VILLAGE PLAZA

Killaly St. W. & Steele St
PORT COLBORNE

SMITH OPTICAL
VISION & HEARING CARE
www.smithoptical.ca



OPTICAL SALE

30% OFF 2ND SET OF LENSES

- Value Frames from \$50
- Fashion Frames 20% OFF
- Contact Lens Specials

SEE OPTICIAN FOR DETAILS
905-835-6607

482 STEELE ST., PORT COLBORNE

HAVING TROUBLE HEARING?



WE CAN HELP

Book A Test Now

FREE HEARING TEST
CALL 905-835-6607

FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH
CHERYL SMITH
Hearing Instrument Specialist



SMITH OPTICAL
VISION & HEARING CARE

482 STEELE ST., PORT COLBORNE
www.smithoptical.ca

EYE EXAMS

Book your Appointment at
OPTOMETRISTS @PORTAL VILLAGE PLAZA
905-834-0532
482 STEELE ST., PORT COLBORNE



EXAMEN DISPONIBLE EN FRANCAIS



JULIE JOCSAK/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Rebecca Rennie got quite the surprise when she found her cat, which had been missing for four years, at the Lincoln County Humane Society when she was looking for a friend's lost dog.

I've been thinking about autonomy

FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT

St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

The recent, unanimous Supreme Court decision to overturn the Criminal Code provision against assisted suicide is evidence that Canada's law schools have been teaching an amoral and anti-life ethics.

It is therefore no accident that so many law societies across Canada — not to mention the Bank of Montreal — oppose the creation of a Christian law school at Trinity Western University in British Columbia. What is astounding about this anti-Christian opposition is that it accuses Trinity Western

University of believing that God instituted marriage between a man and a woman and that students should not commit adultery. Oh, the horror!

One of the deceptions that lie behind this widespread opposition to Judeo-Christian morality is the assumption that each individual is autonomous. Individual autonomy means that each individual is a law unto himself or herself.

This is the doctrine of the majority on the United States Supreme Court, who supported Justice Kennedy's 1992 ruling: "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."

Against such autonomous delusion St Paul

asked the Christians at Corinth, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (1 Cor. 6:19).

The big deception today is that I am my own, that my body is my own property, and so I can do whatever I like with my body, whether ruining it with prodigal living or even destroying it with assisted suicide. St. Paul is telling us that we are not our own.

We are God's property by right of creation and also by right of redemption, for he goes on to say, "You were bought with a price"

(1 Cor. 6:20).

The price was the death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He died for us as the Lamb of God, as the ransom, as the substitute, and as the example. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15).

The anguish of human free will is that we can choose to believe in Jesus Christ the Lamb of God or not, to follow Christ or not. Again and again our elected Parliament and our unelected courts have chosen not to believe in

Christ and not to follow

The recent decision of Canada's Supreme Court in favour of assisted suicide is only the latest example of ongoing national apostasy, which began in earnest with no fault divorce and with legalized abortion. Canada is going into the far country of prodigal living in many ways. And prodigal living is a kind of death (Luke 15:24, 32). Canada is going the way of pagan Rome.

But the Church bore witness to God's love and to the way, the truth and the life through centuries of pagan Rome, until Rome turned to some extent to

God's way and not the way of human greed and lust. And so we continue to pray for our nation. That is part of our calling. And the greater part of our calling is to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirit, which belong to God. And so we try to let our light shine before our fellow human beings, so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER**

The Township of Wainfleet Fire and Emergency Services will be holding an Open House for anyone interested in becoming a Volunteer Firefighter.

If you are a Wainfleet resident, in good physical condition and dedicated to serving your community – why not consider joining the Wainfleet Volunteer Firefighters?

The Open House will be held on **Saturday, February 28, 2015**, at the Station 2 Fire Hall, 31907 Park Street from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Information will be provided on the recruitment process. Application forms will also be available. Completed applications must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2015** to:

The Township of Wainfleet
Fire Department Recruitment
31940 Highway 3, P.O. Box 40
Wainfleet ON L0S 1V0

Please visit our website at www.wainfleet.ca for more information and to obtain an application.

All applications will be held in strict confidence. We thank all applicants however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for employment assessment purposes only.

[illegible]

LOCAL NEWS

■ **TOURISM:** Here's something you'll want to watch

New video promotes Niagara's south coast

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Life is beautiful on Niagara's south coast.

That's the message a new promotional video, presented at a Port Colborne council meeting, is meant to send.

The video, created for Niagara's South Coast Tourism Association by Pacific Productions International, highlights events, settings and activities that bring the

communities of Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Port Erie to life.

It will be used during all promotional opportunities and will be shared online, Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner said.

"This gives us one more bullet in our gun when we go hunting for tourists," he said lightheartedly.

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott credited the creators of the video for

capturing the essence of life in the five municipalities and sharing what the communities have to offer.

"The thought kept coming through my mind, why wouldn't you want to come here? Why wouldn't you want to see this? ... This is a great invitation to send out to people."

Staff of the participating municipalities are working to co-ordinate further meetings to

continue to develop the tourism association, Evan Acs, Port Colborne's economic development officer, told council.

"Hopefully we'll have some very posi-

tive news to share with you in the future, soon."

maryanne.firth@sumedia.ca
Twitter: @mfirth13buns

**EXPERIENCE
FREEDOM**
of life without
**GLASSES OR
CONTACTS**

*Don't let glasses or even
contacts hold you back
from your favorite sports!*



FREE

Designer Prescription Sunglasses
to complement your new vision
on first time surgery only. For
all procedures booked by
Feb 27, 2015.

BONUS

Receive an added bonus initial post-op drops, goggles and a 3 year vision care plan valued at \$350 All procedures booked by Feb 27, 2015

VISION
LASIK & CONTACT LENSES

Dr. Andrew W. Taylor
M.D., F.R.C.S.C., Dip. A.B.O.

1-888-510-2020 / 905-371-3217

www.lasikprovision.com

6800 Morrison Street,
Niagara Falls, Ontario

FREE Preliminary Eye Exam
Until Feb 27, 2015

LASIK PROVISION'S GIFT TO YOU!
To use if you are a candidate for LASIK Surgery.

BOOK NOW! See How **\$0.00**
LIMITED TIME OFFER Pay Later! No Risk
No Money Down



Shown are screen grabs of a new tourism video for Port Colborne, Wainfleet, Port Erie, Welland and Pelham.

www.InPortNews.ca



Tim Hortons
Bowl for
Kids Sake

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of South Niagara

Welland
Saturday March 7, 2015
2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Bowl-O-Rama
968 Niagara St.

Fort Erie
Sunday March 8, 2015
Saturday March 14, 2015
2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Carroll's Bowling Lanes
7 Klauk St.

REGISTER

**ROUND UP
YOUR TEAM**

**CORRALSOME
PLEDGES!**



Trade in your winter boots for **COWBOY BOOTS & BOWLING SHOES** in March!

Register Online at
sNiagara.kintera.org/BFKS
or contact
905-735-0570 ext. 221
admin.southniagara@
bigbrothersbigsisisters.ca

Visit
www.bbbsinniagara.ca
for helpful tips on
collecting pledges &
lassoning support!

Media Sponsors



THIS YEAR'S THEM E
Country & Western
COWBOY BOOTS, HATS, AND PLAIN

LOCAL NEWS

BUSINESS



JULIE JOCSAK/QUI AGENCY NIAGARA

Lisa Cairns, executive director of the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, with different awards that they have handed out over the years.

Awards honour the tops in Niagara business

DOM FRASER
QUI Agency Niagara

Several Niagara business titans were recently handed prestigious awards.

The Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards presents the prizes each year before its gala February dinner.

Dennis Parass gets a lifetime achievement award for a notable career in custom engineering. Parass is the former president of Handling Specialty, in Grimsby.

In 1989, Parass took a job with Handling as vice-president of marketing. He accepted the position as president in 1989 and built a company known internationally for its niche lifting and handling devices.

He is a board member at Niagara Enterprise Agency and the board of Young Life of Canada.

Steven Cohen, owner of Niagara Falls-based Salt Steel, is recipient of the community contribution award. He and his family have been longtime noted philanthropists.

Cohen is also founder and team captain of Steve's Cycle Paths, which in seven years has raised more than \$4.5 million for cancer research.

The special achievement award was handed to Phil Ritchie, whose Keefe Developments Ltd. has been a leader in the private-sector revitalization of downtown Thorold and Niagara Falls.

He has also served with the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce, Ontario's Finest Inns, the Niagara

Falls Downtown Board of Management and the Smarter Niagara steering committee.

Added to the award's historical hall of fame are Ted and Eb Spencer Fox, of E.S. Fox Ltd., which was established in Welland.

E.S. Fox is a privately owned, integrated Canadian multi-trade constructor and steel fabricator. Its headquarters are now in Niagara Falls, with the main fabrication facility nearby in Port Robinson.

The 2014 Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Gala Dinner takes place Feb. 20 at the Marriott Gateway on the Falls hotel in Niagara Falls.

This year, a record 70 entrepreneurs were nominated from 42 businesses, said awards executive director Lisa Cairns.

"We have been getting more outreach from other areas of Niagara," she said. "It's a very diverse group again this year...I can only think of a few that the judges may have pulled out of the nominee pool when they were looking at them."

"They are all good and strong nominations coming in this year."

Tickets are available at niagararentrepreneur.com and cost \$120 plus tax. They are also available by phoning 905-688-5757.

Award categories include innovative small business, established enterprise, technological innovation, international trade, tourism enterprise, family enterprise, emerging entrepreneur, agriculture enterprise and environmental enterprise.

Look in Thursday's paper for your M&M Meat Shops flyer.
your meal idea experts!

Convenience.

STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS
142 g/5 oz - 170 g/6 oz
Sold individually
Individual Sale MAX 3.49
Reg. Price 3.99

10 varieties of Bistro or Gourmet to choose from.

BUY 4 OR MORE FOR ONLY 2.49 ea. SAVE \$1.50 ea.

Comfort.

Quality.

BREADED HADDOCK FILLETS
6-11 PORTIONS
907 g/2 lb

11.99 SAVE \$3

MEAL OF THE WEEK

FULLY COOKED BEEF POT ROAST	PEACHES & CREAM CORN	4.99
SERVES 3-4 907 g/2 lb	1 kg/2.2 lb	
14.99	BEAN & CARROT MEDLEY	3.99
SAVE \$3	1 kg/2.2 lb	
	HOMESTYLE MASHED POTATOES	4.99
	650 g/1.4 lb	

ALL PRICES IN EFFECT UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

St. Catharines 210 Gimel Ave. 905-682-3121
St. Catharines 363 Lake St. 905-646-8812
St. Catharines 100 Fourth Ave. 905-682-6326

Niagara Falls 6225 Thorold Stone Rd. 905-354-0186
Grimsby 36 Main St. E. 905-945-9400
Welland 30 Rice Rd. 905-733-6819

Visit mmeatshops.com for individual store hours.

Prices of products that feature the MAX special logo are exclusive to registered MAX customers. Simply present your MAX card, or sign up for a FREE MAX membership in-store or online, to take advantage of these MAX discounts.

THE SANCTUARY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS FALL & WINTER CONCERT SERIES 2015



Julie's Party
with
West Hammock
March 2, 2015

The Welchems
w/ Julian Taylor
March 13, 2015

Ashley MacIsaac
Juno Winner
March 27, 2015

Alex Cuba
Juno Grammy Winner
April 11, 2015

Ron Hawkins
of Love of the Law
April 25, 2015
A Brokenwren
Production

Fred Eaglesmith
May 1, 2015



THE FLAMINGO BRASS BAND BEER FEST
02 MAY 2015

MORE EXCITING SHOWS TO ANNOUNCE SOON!
CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE WWW.THEFLAMINGOBRASSBAND.COM

500 DOWNS ROAD • 500 DOWNS ROAD • 500 DOWNS ROAD

BRIMSTONE BREWING COMPANY LOWER LEVEL

BRIMSTONE BREWING COMPANY LOWER LEVEL

GET THE LATEST
BREAKING NEWS
www.InPortNews.ca

REGION

Niagara's \$228M debt means 'solid' AA credit rating

ROB HOULE
QIM Agency Niagara

To some people, \$228 million looks like a staggering amount of debt.

But when you have \$7 billion in assets, it's not big deal, municipal leaders say.

Credit rating agency Standard and Poor's recently gave Niagara Region a AA rating for its level of debt, which at the end of 2013 stood at \$228 million.

"It's not a huge amount, said corporate services commissioner Mo Lewis. "We have \$7 billion worth of assets," he said. "So that \$228 million... in relation to a value in assets of \$7 billion, is showing we are pretty responsible with our debt."

Lewis said the rating was based on 2013 financials provided to Standard and Poor's, because those from 2014 are still being worked on.

Lewis said the "solid" rating allows the region to borrow money at a lower interest rate.

During recent budget presentations, it was noted Niagara's debt at the end of 2014 stood at \$263 million, with unissued debt totalling another \$152 million.

Unissued debt is that which is approved by regional council but has not yet been borrowed to pay for infrastructure projects, such as new Niagara Regional Police headquarters in Niagara Falls and construction of a barge bridge replacement in St. Catharines.

Lewis said he doubts the

addition of that debt to the outstanding debt would affect the Region's credit rating, since the spending of that money would mean the value of the region's assets has increased.

Regional chairman Alan Cassin and chief administrative officer Harry Schlange touted the AA rating in a news release.

"The affirmation of our AA credit rating is welcome news for Niagara Region," Cassin said. "Council's priority is economic prosperity and we have put measures in place to aggressively advance that goal for Niagara's future. This rating sends a strong message to investors, businesses and residents that Niagara is ready and able to deliver on our commitments."

The release said highlights of the Standard and Poor's report point to some challenges facing Niagara, including a weaker labour market, slow recovery in manufacturing and modest population growth, which will constrain the region's financial flexibility compared with that of other municipalities.

"This rating continues to demonstrate the importance of regional council and staff working together to manage our business plans and budget," Schlange said. "We are well-positioned to invest in the programs and services required to build a more prosperous Niagara, while staying within the guidelines of our taxpayer affordability strategy, as a result of our sound financial management practices."

We'll give you something to SMILE about!

• Full & Partial Dentures • Free Consultations
• Using Top Trading Accounts • Upper & Lower Dentures
• Same Day Repair & Realistic Services • Emergencies & House Calls

Horbert Gieger DDS

905-835-2155

the Smokin' Buddha
RESTAURANT & MARKETS

Tuesday: 4:30 - 10:00
Wed. to Sat: 11:30 - 10:00

905-834-6000

The Old Railway Station, 265 King St.,
Port Colborne, ON.
www.thesmokinbuddha.com

\$\$\$ 1000 CASHBACK \$\$\$

2009 DODGE NITRO 4X4

\$14,724

Starts at \$14,724. Low Monthly Payments. Purchase or Lease \$100 Down. Call us today!

2011 CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE

\$25,129

Super Low MSRP. She's a Looker and Sitting in the Showroom. Come Check it Out! Spring is coming. Purchase or Lease \$100 Down!

2008 CHEV TRAILBLAZER 4X4

\$8,995

Fantastic Shape. Clean as a Whiter. Great SUV. Purchase \$132 Down. Super low payments. Call us for details today!

2008 CHEV EQUINOX LT

\$10,995

Great! Great! Power Windows, Onboard SUV and very Affordable! Purchase or Lease \$100 Down! Call us for details today!

1992 FORD C CLASS ALLEGRO BA1

\$13,995

Beautiful Shape. Soft Carpeted Interior. 3 Awnings. Top Bag. Rear Rack Bottom. You need to see IT! More photos. Call us today!

WE FINANCE • PURCHASE AS LOW • 100 DOWN

2009 GRAND CARAVAN STOW & GO

\$12,995

Dynamite Low Price. Seating for many! Ready for you. Purchase or Lease \$100 Down. Call us for details. Trade Welcome.

2007 NISSAN VERSA SE

\$8,995

Little Automotive Headache. Nice Low MSRP and Super Low Payments. Purchase as Low \$100 Down. Call us today!

2008 FORD RANGER EXT CAB

\$9,995

Great Truck! Automatic. Fantastic Shape. Awesome Low Payments. Only \$100 Down! Call us today!

2007 FORD SPORTRAC 4DR 4X4

\$16,995

Wow! Sportrac \$16,995. Top Package. Auto. Loaded with all the goodies! Purchase as Low \$100 Down! Call us today for low prices!

2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE

\$14,724

Great on Fuel. Even this dynamite SUV as low as \$100 down. Trade welcome. Drive it or see it!

2011 CHRYSLER 300C TOURING

\$20,224

Loaded with everything. This one is a beauty. Purchase or Lease \$100 down. Call us today to arrange a personal Test Drive.

2004 FORD F150 CREW 4X4

\$5,500

Local Trade. Higher than MSRP. Great Truck. Selling as fast as you can. See it. Love it. No Sweat! Or we will for Additional cost.

2007 FORD F150 CREW 4X4

\$17,995

Dynamite Low Price. Super Clean. New Tires. Perfect! Easy to choose from. Fantastic as low \$100 down. Trade Welcome! Call us!

2005 FORD F150 EXT. 4X4

\$12,995

Backs and Cab. Clean. 24" x 16" Package. Awesome Low Price. Nice Truck. Trade Welcome! Please Call The Truck Specialist!

2004 CADILLAC ESCALADE LT

\$18,995

Real Nice! Fully Loaded. Super Clean! Trade your share to own it for as low as \$100 down! Call us today for details.

Need A Little Extra \$\$\$?

\$1000 CASH BACK

\$1000 - Can be used as additional down payment upon financing - Or additional \$1000 off these selected vehicles.

SET UP A TEST DRIVE!

Call Our Sales
1-888-329-5639

Mention this ad to receive this special promotion

SMOOTH/DOOR/KIM'S LIMITED SUPPLIER WARRANTY ON ALL CERTIFIED-TESTED VEHICLES.

TOLL FREE 1-888-329-5639 • WWW.NIAGARA AUTOSALES.COM • 1031 NIAGARA ST., N. WELLAND



www.fabriclandwestern.com

BASIC BARGAINS

Thursday February 19 - Sunday February 22, 2015

All In Stock

**Print Flannelette and
Broadcloth**

50% OFF

Our Regular Price

Special Selection

**Arctic Fleece
Plain & Print**

60% OFF

Our Regular Price

Special Selection

Fall Fashion Fabrics

Up to **75% OFF**

Our Regular Price
Selection Varies By Store

All In Stock

Gutermann Thread

100% Polyester All Purpose

100m **\$1.00 ea.** Reg. \$1.89 ea.

250m **\$2.50 ea.** Reg. \$3.89 ea.

FABRIC SAVINGS COUPON

50% OFF ONE CUT OF FABRIC UP TO 10 METRES LONG

DISCOUNT IS OFF THE REGULAR PRICE ONLY

VALID Thursday February 19 - Sunday February 22, 2015

NO EXTENSIONS

One coupon per customer per cash register transaction. No facsimiles allowed. Coupon cannot be combined with any other offer. Discount is off our regular price in stock merchandise only, no special orders. Offer not good on previous sales. Coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase, 10 meter maximum per customer per purchase.

Above discount valid on selected regular priced in stock merchandise only, no special orders, not valid on previous purchases. Discounts are off regular prices, not competitive or sale prices.

Custom Drapery Now Available at all Locations See Store For Details

525 WELLAND AVE.,
St. Catharines

Store Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9-9 • Sat. 9-6 • Sun. 12-5
34 Douglas Ave., Welland

685-6595



www.fabriclandwestern.com

734-3836

■ **EDUCATION:** Entrepreneurial hub to draw on region's business community for expertise

ncTakeOff launches at Niagara College

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara College students who want to be their own boss some day will be getting extra help in

accomplishing that.

At its Welland campus, the college recently launched ncTakeOff — an initiative to expand entrepreneurship activities across all

of its programs, both on campus and in the community.

The entrepreneurship hub will boost student access to experts, mentors, events and networking

opportunities.

Vivian Kinnaird said although an element of entrepreneurship has long been part of the college's curriculum — she points to its brewery and culinary programs as examples — there is now an opportunity for students to work with mentors "right from the get-go" because ncTakeOff "helps us take it to the next level."

"If they've got a great business idea — we're here to help them," the college's dean of business, hospitality and environment said in an interview.

Ultimately, she noted, entrepreneurs have the potential to create new jobs.

"This is a value add (to curriculum) that's very important," college president Dan Patterson said while remarking on how the region's economy has become a thriving place for small- and medium-sized business, a nod to the long-gone days of companies that once employed hundreds.

"I'm very optimistic about the tremendous opportunities that will be before us," he said to a crowd.

Student administrative council president Shane Malcolm said ncTakeOff will help students to think outside the box.

"In today's transitioning economy, entrepreneurship is increasingly becoming

ing a path to success for many young people," he said.

The ncTakeOff initiative is led jointly by two college divisions: business, hospitality and environment; and media, trades and technology. It will work with the college's research and innovation division, and collaborate with existing resource centres for entrepreneurs in the region.

Among partners are Welland's Job Gym, Brock University, StartUp Niagara, Innovate Niagara, Niagara Industrial Association, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and St. Catharines Enterprise Centre.

Niagara College and the On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activities (OCEA) program is funding ncTakeOff, with \$200,000 coming from the province over two years.

Project manager Rachel Crane said the program in development since late last summer will "make a big splash" not only for all its students, including those in continuing education programs, but also for Niagarans who are not counted as students, such as those registered with the college's Training Solutions program in downtown St. Catharines.

Said Patterson, "It's been a labour of love, and really has its roots in what Niagara College is all about."

food Basics

ALWAYS MORE FOR LESS

BE PREPARED! STOCK UP ON EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO BRAVE WINTER'S WORST.

ALWAYS IN STOCK

We will try our hardest to ensure the advertised items you need are always in stock. But if one of them isn't, we will give you a Raincheck - 10% off the advertised price for your next visit**.

OR A RAINCHECK + 10% OFF!



GREG FURMINGER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Business people, educators and community leaders gather for Niagara College's recent launch of ncTakeOff, an initiative to expand the school's entrepreneurship activities across all its programs.

DENNIS O'REILLY CONTRACTING AND CARPENTRY

Look no further to get professional results

- Remodeling the Niagara Region for the past decade
- Dedicated to providing the finest quality of service and materials for your dollar
- Written warranties

Always a fast, friendly and FREE estimate

"Don't settle on part time service"

Ph: 905-894-8599



LOCAL NEWS

■ **DRUM CORPS:** Wellander plays bass drum in Militaires Alumni

'I don't let my blindness stop me'

ALLAN BENNER
(M) Agency Niagara

There were two things that inspired Wayne Tuttle to learn to play the drums: marching bands and Ringo Starr.

He recalled growing up in the 1960s, pounding away on his desktop with two rulers while listening to Beatles songs. But he also remembered standing alongside the parade route as a young child, watching in awe as drum bands marched past.

"I've always been intrigued by marching bands ever since I was five or six years old," the Welland resident said.

Tuttle soon learned to play the drums for real, playing with a few rock bands and country bands, but until recently he never had a chance to realize his dream of being a drummer in one of those marching bands.

That changed recently when Tuttle saw an advertisement on Kijiji saying the Niagara Memorial Militaires Alumni Drum Corps was looking for new members.

He joined the Niagara Falls-based group as a bass drummer, and has been performing with them ever since.

But participating in parades throughout southern Ontario, New York and

Pennsylvania poses a little more of a challenge for Tuttle, now 59 years old. Tuttle has been legally blind since 1976.

He isn't unique. He said the Ohio State School for the Blind has its own marching band, and even the Militaires have had a blind drummer.

But currently, he said, "I am the only blind marching band bass drummer in Canada."

"I do a lot of stuff. I don't let my blindness stop me," said Tuttle, who has very limited vision in his left eye and none in his right eye.

He's even flown an airplane and a glider, as well as operated snowmobiles. He plans to learn scuba diving in the near future.

Although his vision has made marching along a parade route more challenging — particularly after dark, when he's completely blind — it hasn't hurt his performance — or the band's. The Militaires were honoured for their performance in the Thorold Santa Claus Parade.

Since joining the Militaires, Tuttle has become concerned about preserving marching bands so future generations of children will find the same inspiration

that he did, standing alongside the parade route when he was a child.

"Drum corps are a dying art," he said, adding the average age of members of the Militaires is 65, and the oldest member is in his

60s.

Tuttle said he has recruited his 14-year-old daughter Sarah to join the band, likely to play the glockenspiel.

But the band needs more young people to get involved to keep the

tradition alive.

More information about the band is available at www.militairesalumni.com.

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @abenner1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Niagara Memorial Militaires Alumni Drum Corp. perform in a local parade.

Port Colborne Operatic Society
Presents

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

**February
14, 15, 21,
22, 27, 28
& March 1,
2015**

**Meet the Cast on
Opening Night!**

Lakeshore Catholic High School Auditorium
150 Janet St, Port Colborne, ON

Reserved Seats Just \$20

905-834-7572

Roselawn Box Office
296 Fielden Avenue, Debit or Cash

PortColborneOperaticSociety.com

70th Annual
Production

BRINGING BROADWAY HOME SINCE 1945

PLATINUM SPONSOR

■ **GAMING:** 13-storey LED/HD screen to be constructed outside Fallsview Casino

Battle of the LEDs

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

The Canadians plan to do it bigger and brighter.

"We've been looking at the casino across the river's sign for a while now. But once our new one is up and running, there will be no comparison," said Niagara Casinos spokesman Greg Medulun.

The company is in the process of changing the vertical sign that spells out "Casino" on the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort building. It will be replaced by a 13-storey LED/HD screen that will feature casino information and

show times.

Medulun said construction is underway and when completed, it will be the largest LED/HD screen in Canada.

The current sign, which has been in place since Fallsview Casino opened more than 10 years ago, is 130 feet tall and 20 feet wide.

"It's about the same physical size as the current one, but the flexibility and multi-use options are vastly improved," said Medulun. "More than 15-million LEDs are in the sign."

The new video-display will cost about \$2 million.

"Depending on the

weather, we are looking at a six-week turn-over (construction) schedule," said Medulun, adding most of the hardware from the existing sign will remain to work in conjunction with the new sign.

He said the new sign will be "clearly visible" to visitors on the U.S. side of Niagara Falls.

Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel flipped the switch on its \$1.9-million, 108-foot-long and 20-foot-tall LED video display in 2012.

Facing the Canadian side, the massive screen is located atop the building, nearly 360 feet above the ground and

displays promos for upcoming casino events.

Medulun said Niagara Casinos received a permit from the city of Niagara Falls to install their new sign.

He said the current sign at Fallsview Casino is "quite limited in its marketing capabilities."

"The static vertical letters don't do the overall product offering justice," he said. "We are a full-scale, Las Vegas-style resort. We have big-name entertainment, fine dining, shopping, spa, gaming etcetera. The new sign will be able to give visitors to Niagara Falls a much better



MICHELE DIAMANTISIA / ILLUMINATI

Niagara Casinos is currently in the process of changing the vertical sign that reads "Casino" to a 13-storey LED/HD screen that will feature casino information and showtimes.

feel about what awaits them."

Mayor Jim Diodati said LEDs "are the way of the future" and are "more like a television than a billboard."

"They're interactive. We have to compete with the Seneca. They put up a nice, big sign to lure our custom-

ers away and they're winning that battle. Two hundred years ago we were aiming our cannons at each other, now we're aiming our TVs at each other," he said with a laugh.

ray.spiteri@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @RaySpiteri

the \$1 \$2 \$3 event!

Prices in effect until February 24th, 2015, while quantities last.

GIANT TIGER

— your **save on everything** store —

200 Fitch Street, Welland

Store hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 am to 9 pm
Sat. 8 am to 6 pm - Sun. 9 am to 6 pm

Join us!

f t p You Tube

WATCH, PIN, POST, LIKE, FOLLOW OR TWEET

GIANTTIGER.com



GIANT TIGER, TIGER, GIANT, TIGER HEAD DESIGNS AND OTHER TRADEMARKS IN THIS AD ARE REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED CANADIAN TRADEMARKS OF GIANT TIGER STORES LIMITED AND ARE LICENCED TO ITS FRANCHISEES.



CANADIAN TIRE

FROM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH TO THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26TH, 2015



Jumpstart

Giving kids a sporting chance

BUY 3 GET THE 4TH FREE[†]

Buy 3 of any tire shown below at our regular price and get the 4th identical tire for FREE!

*Following issues may have extra inclusions from their Allot savanna zone of the same taxon to suit the local climate zone. *Purchased on a 12-month credit payment plan.

12 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS

NO FEE* - NO INTEREST*

^{***}See inside back cover for details. Min. \$200.



For Full Tire Testing Results see www.canadiantire.ca/testresults



39⁹⁹

39.99 ea, up Steel Wheels. Help save time on your seasonal changeover with a second set of wheels. 09-5233X.



**SAVE
25%**

Sale 31.99-224.99 Reg 42.99-299.99
NOCO Genius Smart Battery Chargers.
9 models to choose from. 5-year warranty. 11-18250



**SAVE
50%**

Sale 19.99 Reg 39.99 **Booster Cables.** Built-in light for boosting in low light. 11-1213-2.



**SAVE
\$20**

Sale 149.99 ea, up* Reg. from 169.99
Eliminator Ultra Batteries. AGM technology for sure.

*Including trade-in of eligible old part. Trade-in prices may vary by product. See in store for details.



**SAVE
35%**

Sale 184.99 Reg 289.99 1000A
Power Pack with Built-In 700W Inverter. 11-2028-8

Sale 77.99 Reg 119.99 300W/120W
Power Pack. 11-2002-E.



SYNTHETIC 
OIL CHANGE**



Includes:

- Up to 5L of Castrol synthetic oil
- MotoMaster oil filter
- Vehicle inspection
- Battery test

ONLY
54^{99¢}

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS!

Appointments are recommended, but not necessary

*Up to 5L Conquest synthetic oil (assorted grades). Some vehicles may require more. MotorMaster filter (up to \$5 value) may not fit some vehicles. Additional fees and charges may apply for vehicles that require more oil or different filter. Eco fees, where applicable, are extra. Canadian Tire auto service coupons/offers cannot be redeemed at Pli Store or any Canadian Tire Petroleum locations. †Most vehicles

**When you spend \$200
or more* storewide**

^{***}See inside back page for details.

12 EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS NO FEE* NO INTEREST FINANCING

287 West Side Rd, Port Colborne, 905-835-1155

Happily ever after is not a fairy tale, it's a choice

Sparkles, laughter and lots of white – that is what is waiting for you at Casablanca Winery Inn's 7th annual Wedding Open House.

Taking place on Sunday, March 1st, 2015 from 12 noon until 4 pm, this free admission event will give you and your loved ones a chance to experience all things wedding. Get up-close and personal with more than a dozen of their preferred vendors, chat with the Chef in the Grand Ballroom and enjoy food and wine tasting, property tours and beauty advice from their Spa experts.

Featuring ceremony and reception set-ups, trends in table settings, wedding decor and florals and a variety of inspirational ideas for your ideal wedding or special event.

Visit Panorama Restaurant & Wine Bar to sweeten your tooth at the Chocolate Fountain, sample local wines and take in the stunning view of Lake Ontario. Don't miss your chance to win a Door Prize or the Grand Prize – a one night stay in a Luxury honeymoon Suite.

Whether you are a happy bride or groom – make sure to RSVP and attend the Wedding Open House. Call 905-309-7171, 1-877-446-5746 or email rsvp@casablancawineryinn.com and don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for Grimsby Benevolent Fund.



The beautiful grand staircase at Casablanca Winery Inn is perfect for wedding photos.

www.InPortNews.ca

■ **TRANSIT:** Diodati, region pushing to bring service to Niagara

GO challenges won't stop advocates

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

While Hamilton has been told there is no approved provincial funding for GO train expansion from its new James St. station to Stony Creek, Niagara officials are not taking that as a worrying sign for their efforts to lure year-round service to the region.

"We don't see challenges or concerns as reasons to stop, we see them as reasons to be more creative," said Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati.

"We will not stop until we are successful."

According to a *Hamilton Spectator* article, the city's transit director said he's learned it will cost \$150 million to extend commuter rail service beyond James St. to the edge of Stony Creek. A Metrolinx spokesperson also warned there is no approved funding for GO expansion beyond James St.

Diodati said while he pays attention to GO issues in other parts of Ontario, stakeholders in the Golden Horseshoe are more focused on what they can do to convince the province that bringing regular service to Niagara would be the "biggest single contributor to the economic recovery" of the region.

"We've brought in the services of a high-level consultant at the region who is very experienced in these types of situations, who is experienced in finding rail solutions," said Diodati. "We've already come up with a strategy – a way to bring the GO train to Niagara Falls sooner rather than later."

Diodati said the "creative" strategy has been shared with the premier's office, but he's not prepared to share it with the public.

"It's very doable, very affordable. It would require much less financial investment than originally thought."

Diodati said he has regular discussions with the premier's office – as recently as this week – on a number of issues, GO being one of them.

Niagara Region Chair Alan Caslin said expanded GO service to Grimsby, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls is his council's top priority.

"We have been working with the Seaway, CN rail, Metrolinx and GO Transit," he said. "Getting the GO train through Hamilton is important, but we're really focused on the work we're doing down here. These are separate issues."

Caslin said when regional and municipal officials met with the premier's office in October, they were given "specific instructions" on how to move their request forward.

"We're hopeful of meeting with the premier's office during the first quarter of this year to present the work we've completed."

He said Niagara is unified in its GO push. He pointed to a team, which includes several mayors and chief administrative officers from across Niagara, that meets every two weeks, "if not more," to discuss its efforts.

**Book
Outlet**

**Read
-iculously
LOW!
prices!**

**Bestseller in
Bargain Books**

Book Outlet is a warehouse-style retail store that offers fantastic value on quality books. The books are new and we offer them at 50-90% off the original list price.

Learn more at
bookoutlet.ca/retail

**Get your free
coupon**
\$5

to spend during your next visit
to our retail store—no minimum
purchase required!

Just sign up for our newsletter here to receive it in your email:

www.bookoutlet.ca/Retail/FiveDollars

Already a subscriber? No problem—just fill out the form online to get your coupon today!

No purchase required. Some restrictions apply. Must have valid email address. One coupon per person. Not valid with other coupons, sales or promotions. Not valid for purchase of gift cards. Please note expiry date on coupon. See website for more details.

Join us for our

MARCH SPRING BREAK BOOK SALE!

**3
Days
Only!**

Thursday 19: 9am - 9pm

Friday 20: 9am - 9pm

Saturday 21: 9am - 6pm

fill a box of books for just

\$29^{.95} plus tax

*sale takes place in back warehouse only

Store sales, prices and merchandise availability are subject to change without notice. We endeavor to display only items which are currently available for purchase. However, it is possible that some items will be out of stock at the time you visit the store.

340 Welland Ave. St. Catharines

Store Hours: Mon to Thu 9am-6pm, Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-6pm, Sun - Closed | Store Phone: 905.641.4581

SPOTLIGHT on service

SHERK
TIMBER MART

"Lumber merchants since 1810"

333 Davis Street
(next to Home Hardware)
Port Colborne, ON L3K 1Z5

Phone: 905-834-4541

Fax: 905-834-5100

Website: www.timbermart.ca/sherk

KITCHEN DESIGN SPECIALISTS
BRING IN YOUR MEASUREMENTS
TO RECEIVE A QUOTE ON FACTORY
ASSEMBLED CABINETS.

INSTALLATION AVAILABLE



SPECIAL
90 KITCHEN
ON A \$200
+ 10% material charge
+ 10% labour charge
+ 10% delivery charge
+ 10% installation charge
+ 10% tax
\$799

Hiring a Lawyer is Serious Business.
DON'T BE A VICTIM TWICE!

Call Jane with confidence
at 289-362-1322

www.burbagebarristers.com



BURBAGE BARRISTERS

Smart Lawyers Who Care

When the electricity fails...
How will you be *AFFECTED*?

Custom Designed Stand-by Power
Installations to Suit Your Needs

Cornell Feenstra Electric Ltd.

All Types of Electrical Installation
Pole Line Installation & Aerial Bucket Truck Service
Call: 905-899-9373 • Fax: 905-899-9383

**Reach Over
20,000 Readers!**
**WITH YOUR MESSAGE
IN THIS SPACE**

For Only \$25⁰⁰ Per Week
Based on 13 Weeks

Call 905-732-2414 x.503260



New Customer Special

First Wash + Set

\$10.50

HST included

Portal Village Beauty Salon
300 Elgin Street, Port Colborne
905-933-7315



Temperatures are Falling!

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE ON A
FURNACE & AIR CONDITIONING PACKAGE

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS!
BOB REID Heating & Air Conditioning
Residential - Commercial

905-892-7787

Maintenance
On Furnace & Air
Conditioning

FAMILY OWNED AND
OPERATED

J. SNEEK PLUMBING

BUS 905-964-2518
HOME 905-834-2165

sneekj@mpg@live.ca

JOHN SNEEK
OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

RENOVATIONS/ADDITIONS
WATER BACKUP SYSTEMS
FULLY INSURED/GUARANTEED WORKMANSHIP

SCG Computers
"Where traditional customer service
meets modern technology"

SERVICE | UPGRADES | REPAIRS | USED COMPUTER SYSTEMS

250 Kent St. Port Colborne
905-834-6333

graham@scccomputers.com
www.scccomputers.com

LOCAL NEWS

■ **ANIMALS:** Nocturnal exhibit at parks conservatory

Creatures of the night come calling

TOMY NICCIUTO
QMI Agency Niagara

Nest to spiders, many people have a fear of bats. But there's nothing to really be concerned about, says Kevin Dungey, education director with Little Ray's Reptile Zoo of Ottawa.

While people don't want a bat living in their house, he said, if they see one outside, they leave it alone because bats eat many harmful insects.

"They are adorable little mammals that are really misunderstood. Some people think a bat will come down and stick in their hair, but I've never heard of that actually happening," said Dungey.

If a bat does get into the house, call a specialist who is

trained in getting them out, said Dungey, who is looking after the Nocturnal Creatures of the Night Exhibit at Niagara Parks Commission's Butterfly Conservatory.

"You don't want to harm a bat because they are really very helpful," said Dungey. "They are not really harmful to humans, but you don't want them living in your house. They are fascinating to watch. They are very fast and fly quite different from birds."

About 68% of the world's plants and animals are nocturnal. Most of what goes on in the natural world happens while humans sleep.

"Whenever I see a bat flying around in our backyard I always think about the fact there will be one less mos-



Nocturnal Creatures of the Night Exhibit is being shown at the Niagara Park Commission's Butterfly Conservatory. The exhibit runs until May 10, and features 15 different nocturnal species and a select number of smaller animals for hands on interaction.

quito out there," said Cheryl Tyndall, curator at the Butterfly Conservatory.

The exhibit, which costs about \$50,000 to display, will remain at the conservatory until May 10.

It features 15 different nocturnal species, as well as a select number of smaller animals that allow for up-close, hands-on interaction.

Some of the creatures include the Leopard Gecko,

Cuvier's dwarf calman, the emperor scorpion, Burmese python, the common snapping turtle and a number of other species.

A ferret by the name of Lily doesn't mind being handled

by visitors.

On Monday, six-year-old Hunter Fox appeared to be more comfortable holding Lily instead of a reticulated python or a New Caledonian giant gecko.

"Ferrets are so friendly and playful," said Dungey. "They actually thrive from human contact and when you go up to the door they run over because they want to be picked up."

NPC chairman Janice Thomson said that for an additional \$5 on admission people can purchase a season's pass and they can return to the conservatory as often as they like.

"Bringing in this type of exhibit gives people another reason for them to come back to the conservatory and into the park," said Tyndall.

GET HOME DELIVERY OF

THE TRIBUNE

AND RECEIVE A **FREE** ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO
YOUR CHOICE OF ONE OF THESE GREAT MAGAZINES:



OUR CANADA

The most-proud-to-be Canadian magazine! Our reader-inspired content features remarkable Canadians plus stunning photography, fiction and non-fiction stories and popular contests.



READER'S DIGEST

Up your conversation with Canada's #1 most-read magazine! In-depth features, helpful hints and laugh-out-loud funnies makes every month a good read every month.



BEST HEALTH

The magazine for today's women! Packed with straight-forward advice, and tips on looking great, building better relationships, getting fit and beating stress.



ENJOY YOUR
NEWSPAPER
COMBO
FOR AS LITTLE AS
\$3.25
A WEEK!

26 WEEKS
OF HOME DELIVERY
FOR ONLY
\$84.00!

**START YOUR COMBO
SUBSCRIPTION TODAY
BY CALLING TOLL FREE**

OFFER VALID UNTIL MARCH 14, 2015.

1-855-533-5594

Please quote magazine
selection Reader's Digest,
Our Canada or Best Health.

Offer valid to new subscribers only who have not had home delivery in the last 90 days. 26 weeks of home delivery plus your choice of one of these quality magazines with your newspaper subscription. Reader's Digest 1 year 12 issues, Best Health 1 year 7 issues, Our Canada 1 year 7 issues. Price includes GST. Offer is valid only where home delivery is available not available in all areas and may not be used in conjunction with any other offer. Please allow 8-10 weeks for mail delivery of your selected magazine. Credit Card Payment Option only. Total obligation \$80.00 + \$4.00 tax=\$84.00. Offer expires March 14, 2015.



Classifieds

inportnews.ca/classifieds

Phone: 1-866-541-6757 • Fax: 1-866-485-8461 • Email: inportnews.classifieds@sunmedia.ca



General Help
Wanted

General Help
Wanted

General Help
Wanted

Building Supplies

Dating Services

STEEL BUILDINGS / METAL BUILDINGS
UP TO 50% OFF!
30x40, 40x60, 50x80,
60x100, 80x100 sell
for balance owed.
Call: 1-800-457-2206
www.dowmetal
buildings.ca

Huddled in the house
during snow storms and
inclement weather with
the cat and dog, a life
partner would be better
company. Let Missy
River Introductions find
you that special
someone to spend the
rest of your life waiting
out storms with. Call
519-658-4204
www.missyriverintroductions.com

Real Estate
Services

**CANCEL YOUR
TIMESHARE**
NO RISK program.
STOP Mortgage &
Maintenance
Payments Today.
100% Money Back
Guarantee. FREE
Consultation. Call us
NOW. We can Help!
1-888-336-0243

Apartments

2 BDRMS avail. Large
quiet mature living
Bldg. try see apt.
down to Maple park
busstop. Starting at
\$849. 579 Clare Ave
Call: 1-800-735-5748

General Help
Wanted

HELP WANTED!!
Make up to \$1000 a
week making
brochures from Home!
Genuine Opportunity!
No Experience
Required. Start!
Immediately!
[http://www.
localmailers.net](http://www.localmailers.net)

Looking for an online
business?

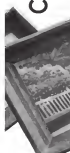
I CAN HELP!
You will receive free
training and after
support. Go to
www.12thstreet.com
and check it out.
Requires a computer and
telephone and
5-15 hours weekly.

Public Notices

CRIMINAL RECORD?
Canadian Record
Suspension (Criminal
person) exists record.
American visitor
allows legal entry.
Why risk employment,
business, travel,
licensing, deportation,
peace of mind?
Free consultation:
1-800-347-2540

CRIMINAL RECORD?
Don't let your past limit
your career, travel. Since
1989 Confidential. Fast
Affordable - As Low
As \$69.
Peters EMPLOYMENT
& TRAVEL FREEDOM.
Call for FREE INFO
BOOKLET 1-800-347-2540
PARDON
(1-866-672-7369)
www.pardonforfreedom.com

CLASSIFINDS! FIND BARGAINS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!



PORT COLBORNE AREA CARRIER ROUTES AVAILABLE

NO COLLECTING!
Call 905-732-2414
ext 389 or 272

Tribune routes: Mon-Sat

DOLPHIN, WELLINGTON

JANET, FARES

CLARKE, BRIDGE

BERKLEY AVE

HUMBOLDT PKY

WELLINGTON

DAVIS ST, MITCHELL

FARES

ST. ARNAUD, FRASER

DONLEA, ROYAL RD

ELMVALE CRES

SCHOLFIELD AVE

MICHAEL DR S.

CLARENCE, MICHAEL DR N

CLARKE ST, BRIDGE ST

MAIN ST W.

AMELIA, MAIN, MELLANBY

MELLANBY, RAMEY

HAMPTON, SCHOLFIELD AVE

CLARENCE, WESTWOOD, STANLEY

EXT 503389 OR EXT 503272

PORT COLBORNE AREA CARRIER FLYER ROUTES AVAILABLE

SATURN CRES, SATURN RD

AMELIA ST, MAIN ST, CANAL

CHURCH, MELLANBY, RAMEY

Call 905-732-2414

ext 503389 or 503272



Call us first to sell it fast!

YOUR lasting legacy

will give
Canadians more
time to laugh, to
love and to live.

Please remember us
with a gift in your Will
and help plant seeds
for tomorrow, **today.**



**HEART &
STROKE
FOUNDATION**

